



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/900,230	07/06/2001	Rolf Kaiser	MSFT-0577/167503.2	3984

7590 10/06/2004

Woodcock Washburn Kurtz  
Mackiewicz & Norris LLP  
46th Floor  
One Liberty Place  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

EXAMINER
----------

PHAM, HUNG Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2162

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/900,230	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KAISER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> HUNG Q PHAM	<b>Art Unit</b> 2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-86 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-86 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-10, drawn to a method of optimizing the access to a database of song by providing specific choice of user preferences, mapping the specific choice to a database then playing songs that have similar mapping, and user can get more song or get faster by using a command, classified in class 707, subclass 2.
  - II. Claims 11-56, drawn to a method of pattern matching access to a media database by analyzing a selected song to extract a set of classification mappings for searching a matching database and generating a result list, classified in class 707, subclass 5.
  - III. Claims 57-69, drawn to a method of query formulating by selecting a first and second media station, analyzing the selected media stations to extract sets of classification mapping, cross-analyzing the sets of classification mapping to calculate a mean and standard deviation for searching a matching data base and generating a result list, classified in class 707, subclass 4.
  - IV. Claims 70-86, drawn to a method of sorting media entities by selecting and rating a media entity to extract a set of classification mappings for comparing to classification mapping in historical record and generating an

Art Unit: 2172

updated preference profile set of classification mapping based on step comparing, classified in class 707, subclass 7.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I-IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. For example, Group I is drawn to a method of optimizing the access to a database of song by providing specific choice of user preferences, mapping the specific choice to a database then playing songs that have similar mapping, and user can get more song or get faster by using a command, Group II is drawn to a method of pattern matching access to a media database by analyzing a selected song to extract a set of classification mappings for searching a matching database and generating a result list, Group III is drawn to a method of query formulating by selecting a first and second media station, analyzing the selected media stations to extract sets of classification mapping, cross-analyzing the sets of classification mapping to calculate a mean and standard deviation for searching a matching data base and generating a result list, Group IV is drawn to a method of sorting media entities by selecting and rating a media entity to extract a set of classification mappings for comparing to classification mapping in historical record and generating an updated preference profile set of classification mapping based on step comparing. See MPEP 806.05(d).

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Applicants are advised that the reply to this requirement to be completed must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

5. Applicants is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

#### ***Contact Information***


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG Q PHAM whose telephone number is 703-605-4242. As of October 21, 2004, new number should be (571) 272-4040. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E BREENE can be reached on 703-305-9790. As of October 21, 2004, new number should be (571) 272-

Art Unit: 2172

4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner Hung Pham  
September 22, 2004

  
SHAHID ALAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER